

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 05609 231936Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3246

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 5609

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CG, BEXP

SUBJECT: COMMERICAL PRESENCE FAIR - KINSHASA INTERNATIONAL FAIR 1975

1. THE FOURTH KINSHASA INTERNATIONAL FAIR OPENED WITH A GRAND CEREMONIAL FLOURISH SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 21. THE U.S. PAVILION WAS COMPLETELY FINISHED AND READY TO RECEIVE VISITORS AT TIME OF THE OPENING. ALTHOUGH OVERWHELMED BY THE SHEER SIZE AND MAGNITUDE OF THE CHINESE EXHIBIT AND OUTCLASSSED TECHNOLOGICALLY BY THOSE OF SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, THE U.S. EXHIBIT WAS PERHAPS ONE OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE AND STOOD OUT AS A MODEL OF TASTE AND DECOR.

2. PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND ENTOURAGE, HOWEVER, PASSED BY THE U.S. EXHIBIT WITHOUT MAKING A VISIT. HE DID VISIT THE BRAZILIAN (NEXT DOOR), CHINESE, JAPANESE, SWISS, RUSSIAN, IRANIAN, SPANISH, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF ARAB AND AFRICAN PAVILIONS.

3. THERE APPARENTLY NO INSTRUCTIONS, HOWEVER, REGARDING VISIT OTHER ZAIRIANS SINCE LARGE NUMBERS OF PRESIDENTIAL CEREMONIAL GUARDS, MILITARY POLICE, AND GENDARMES THERE FOR THE OPENING CEREMONIES STROOPED THOUGH THE U.S. PAVILION DURING THE COURSE OF THE AFTERNOON.

4. THE FAIR WAS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC THE FOLLOWING DAY.

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PAGE 02 KINSHA 05609 231936Z

PROMPTLY AT THE OPENING HOUR A SIZEABLE DELEGATION OF

THE "COMPAGNONS DE LA REVOLUTION" (A HIGHLY HONORED GROUP CONSISTING OF MOBUTU'S OLD ARMY COMRADES), LED BY LT. GEN MASIALA CAME TO THE PAVILION AND MADE A DETAILED AND LEISURELY VISIT. THE U.S. PAVILION IS LOCATED JUST TO THE RIGHT OF MAIN ENTRANCE TO FAIRGROUNDS AND THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY PEOPLE ENTERING THE PAVILION AREA STOPPED AT THE U.S. PAVILION. CROWD WAS ORDERLY AND FRIENDLY. PROSPECTS REMAIN GOOD FOR HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL U.S. EXHIBIT.

ANDREW

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